



Newsletter of St John's Johnstone & St Margaret's Renfrew



Lent 2025

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Dear friends of St John's & St Margaret's,

I have put together this newsletter to ensure we all know what is happening during Lent and Holy Week and leading up to our celebration of Easter this year.

With Tosh on placement at Bishopbriggs and Lisa now in Heartland Charge Rev Robert and I will be looking after the worship and Lent Groups and activities that are planned to take place in the Charges.

The details of Ecumenical services in Johnstone are still to be organized but Renfrew's Ecumenical Good Friday is hosted at Trinity Church this year at 7pm.

Bishop Andrew, as our Acting Bishop, has chosen **Refuweege** as the Bishop's Lent Appeal good cause. In the coming pages you can discover something of their work in helping those arriving in Scotland to feel at home even though it is not home for them yet. Each of our Charges will be having some soup lunches to raise money for the Lent Appeal.

Re-turning to God is the focus as always for Lent and the resources put together will, I hope, help you on your journey through Lent in this 2025. The Lent Course, from the SEI, and our own Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway priest Rev Liz Crumlish will take us into the pages of the bible to see how different women used their skills of leadership. This group will meet on a Sunday evening on ZOOM and on a Monday evening in person at St Margarets. Please come to which ever suits you best and remember to invite friends and neighbours along too as we journey together.

There are two books I have chosen for this Lent and you can easily purchase them through Amazon. The two Saturday Book Group gatherings for will allow us to talk about how we have been getting on and what has been helpful, tricky or challenging as well. Sharing in our journey helps us all to hear more of what God, in Christ Jesus, may be saying to us this Lent.

Additionally, the Ignatian Spirituality Centre have made available to us their Lent course for 2025 and copies may be picked up in church or you can follow the materials online too. May we keep a good and holy Lent and draw closer to God.

Very Rev Reuben Preston – Rector

Ash Wednesday 5 March
2pm said Eucharist at St Johns
& 7pm Sung Eucharist at St Margarets
Ashes offered at both services



SEC Lent Course through the SEI

Miriam's Sisters, Deborah's Daughters

– a short course in Lent 2025



In six sessions we will explore together:-

- [Leadership in Liminal Times](#)
- [Leadership as Learning – Miriam](#)
- [Leadership as Resistance – Vashti](#)
- [Leadership as Tenacity – Mary, mother of God](#)
- [Leadership as Breaking the Mould – Mary of Bethany](#)
- [Leadership as Finding New Landmarks – for such a time as this](#)

We shall run this course online on Sunday evenings at 7pm on zoom or repeated in person on a Monday 7pm in St Margarets

Sunday 2 March and Monday 3 March – Session 1

Sunday 9 March and Monday 10 March – Session 1

Sunday 16 March and Monday 17 March – Session 2

Sunday 23 March and Monday 24 March – Session 3

Sunday 30 March and Monday 31 March- no sessions

Sunday 6 April and Monday 7 April – no sessions

Sunday 13 April and Monday 14 April – Session 4

Sunday 20 April and Monday 21 April – Session 5 (Easter Day and Easter Monday)

Sunday 27 April and Monday 28 April – Session 6 (Sunday after Easter)

In our Charges:- Sundays are on ZOOM using our usual zoom account the session will be 45mins.

Mondays will be in-person at St Margarets for 60mins

Connecting online throughout Lent Our Zoom access remains

Meeting ID: 832 4184 0407 Passcode: 076546

or use this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83241840407?pwd=YnBqWkxEeW5NMlBuTDRmbDc0cFZhUT09>

Here is a Lent course from the Ignatian Spirituality Centre you may like to follow at home in your daily prayers.....



'Fruits of the Spirit'

An invitation to pray with our Roman Catholic Ecumenical sisters and brother.

“We will journey through Lent 2025 in the Jubilee Year. Our Lenten journey this year therefore picks up on the Jubilee theme “Pilgrims of Hope”. The letter issued by Pope Francis on the Feast of the Ascension 2024 to help us begin this pilgrimage is *Spes non Confundit*, hope does not disappoint. Hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Rom 5:1-2.5)

For this reason, through Lent 2025, our Lent Retreat theme is the “fruits of the Spirit”. We experience the fruits of the Spirit in consolation: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness and self-control. For Ignatius consolation was an increase in faith, hope and love. (SE 316). We are invited in the Exercises to revisit consolation often. For this reason, we have invited those involved in our Centres to contribute poems and artwork. We pray that in this Jubilee Year the fruits of the prayer of so many people will renew our hope.

We pray with Pope Francis that the Jubilee is a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. Jn 10:7.9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as “our hope” (1 Tim 1:1).”

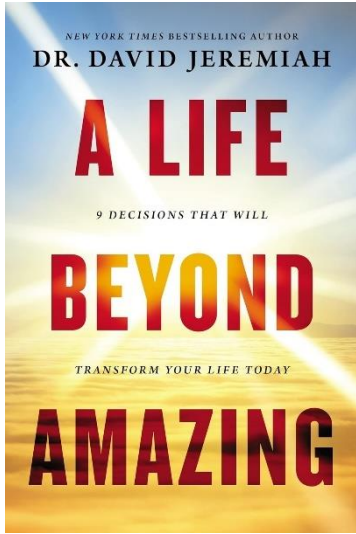
The ISC booklet to use to follow this course is available at the back of St Johns and St Margarets.

The online material (same as the booklet) is at
<https://mixam.co.uk/share/67a8d59d186eda051109a214>

And a PDF of the booklet is at <https://iscglasgow.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4bcff5b46c55f7a2ce1f0d2dc&id=3e94ad051d&e=a2ef4c262d>

Two books for Lent 2025

I have chosen two very different books, to appeal to different types of personality and reader. I hope you get a copy on paper or on your Kindle and take a chance to read and reflect this lent.



[A Life Beyond Amazing: 9 Decisions That Will Transform Your Life Today](#)

Paperback £13.51 Kindle £6.99

Amazon link below

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Life-Beyond-Amazing-Jeremiah-David/dp/0785221441/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&dib_tag=se&dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9.p5OZBIR_Usx9mSpE2Zbx1uhwMPqdJVG5Jcs1zZTYWrtzKjrS2V0wSgk07ndVwqg4r6aAAQpKltP2m9nl9D3ezkP4CIx4_CB5dYMMoqXw4wqjdPq3k1VvXaeXsmB4WS_FFMu74SO5tK6yV8ljFXIFI_IQwzrgb2J8VG9msl9Q3eMG7LAIDXc4ibGY7Av81KGg-ZtyHqqTGeRzk34Ug-ymhrKiqYQKedQgk07vKVp9sZm0UbPTwjsOAFF4t4vcM1eWsnYEbqQsjDyAPi1o6HsRs9QoHnsbsranJ-X-bV34NHpqFILvrYywz4wB7Q_Y4Par.4qwtQVAIWDvy6XRPw_r9qZrwdi0E4ge2Q6Uoe7FitbA&qid=1739797248&sr=1-1

The book's Blurb.....

The world is full of chaos. Frustration. Fear. Do you want your life to be different? Through the practical wisdom of God's Word, you can gain a fresh focus and purpose, become a person of character, and shine a light into the darkness. You can experience a life beyond amazing—starting today.

Why is there such a gap between how Christ wants us to live and how we are living? In *A Life Beyond Amazing*, bestselling author and gifted Bible teacher Dr. David Jeremiah uncovers God's strategy for change and challenges you to make nine important decisions that will transform your heart, your life, and your world.

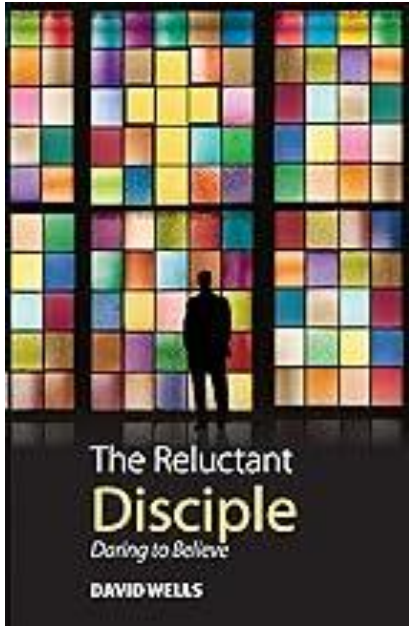
This life-changing book explores the nine qualities of character that carry us forward. Three of these have to do with our relationship with ourselves, three deal with interactions with other people, and three focus on our relationship with God.

A Life Beyond Amazing:

- Provides much needed wisdom in a divisive world of low tolerance
- Emphasizes the danger of concentrating more on what you DO rather than who you ARE
- Sounds a wake-up call to believers everywhere on how they are responding to culture
- Offers a renewed sense of purpose to Christian believers

A Life Beyond Amazing answers the questions that keep us up at night and shows us that the way forward is a reminder of who we are in Christ and why it matters. With Dr. Jeremiah's sound biblical teaching, inspiring stories, and practical suggestions, you'll discover how you can live a

life beyond amazing. Don't miss out on the life that the Lord has for you—a life of peace, joy, and victory. You don't have to wait for heaven to impact your world.



Books: **The Reluctant Disciple: Daring to believe**
by David Wells £9.99 paperback £8.95 kindle
Amazon link below

https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=the+reluctant+disciple&crd=2Y4HMBFRKFA6V&sprefix=the+reluctant+disciple%2Caps%2C131&ref=nb_sb_noss_1

The book's Blurb....

In this book of his personal reflections, David helps us to see God in a range of situations that are often funny, sometimes painful, occasionally toe-curlingly embarrassing. Related with characteristically self-deprecating humour, the stories in this volume range from his moving account of visiting war graves in France to the hilarious account of his Mr Bean in a ballet moment in California.

In our Charges you are invited to our Book Groups

Saturday 8 March & Saturday 15 March 930am-11am at St Margarets Hall

Book Groups are a great way to talk about the books and how we are getting on with them. What is good, frustrating, challenging, annoying and what is it we just don't get or think the author has got it wrong, The discussion is great and the work of the group helps us expand our reading of the texts. What has the text said that has set you thinking?

Saturday 15 March ***The Reluctant Disciple***

Saturday 22 March ***A Life Beyond Amazing***

Tea/Coffee and pastries thrown in free!



Our schedule for Lent 2025

Ash Wednesday 5 March

2pm St Johns Eucharist with Ashing

7pm St Margarets Sung Eucharist with Ashing

Lent 1 Sunday 9 March – 0945 St Johns Sung Eucharist

1130 St Margarets Sung Eucharist

7pm Lent Course on zoom Session 1

Monday 10 March – Lent Course in-person at St Margarets Session 1

Wednesday 12 March 1pm Soup lunch for Bishop's Lent Appeal at St Johns

Usual services 2pm St Johns & 7pm St Margarets

Saturday 15 March 930am-11am Book Group Conversation at St Margarets

Lent 2 Sunday 16 March – 0945 St Johns Sung Eucharist &

1130 St Margarets Sung Eucharist

followed by Soup Lunch for Bishop's Lent Appeal

7pm Lent Course on zoom Session 2

Monday 17 March – Lent Course in-person at St Margarets Session 2

Wednesday 19 March - 1pm Soup lunch for Bishop's Lent Appeal at St Johns

Usual services 2pm St Johns & 7pm St Margarets

Saturday 22 March 930am-11am Book Group Conversation at St Margarets

Lent 3 Sunday 23 March – – 0945 St Johns Sung Eucharist &

1130 St Margarets Sung Eucharist

followed by Soup Lunch for Bishop's Lent Appeal

7pm Lent Course on zoom Session 3

Monday 24 March – Lent Course in-person at St Margarets Session 3

Wednesday 26 March - 1pm Soup lunch for Bishop's Lent Appeal at St Johns

Usual services 2pm St Johns & 7pm St Margarets

Lent 4 Mothering Sunday 30 March – 0945 St Johns Sung Eucharist &

1130 St Margarets Sung Eucharist

followed by Soup Lunch for Bishop's Lent Appeal

NO Lent Course on zoom

Monday 31 March – NO Lent Course in-person at St Margarets

Wednesday 1 April - 1pm Soup lunch for Bishop's Lent Appeal at St Johns

Usual services 2pm St Johns & 7pm St Margarets

Lent 5 Passiontide begins Sunday 6 April - 0945 St Johns Sung Eucharist &

1130 St Margarets Sung Eucharist

NO Lent Course on zoom

Monday 7 April – NO Lent Course in-person at St Margarets

Wednesday 9 April 2pm & 7pm as usual

Lent 6 PALM SUNDAY 13 April – 0945 St Johns Sung Eucharist & 1130 St Margarets Sung Eucharist

7pm Lent Course on zoom Session 4

Holy Monday 14 April – Lent Course in-person at St Margarets Session 4

Holy Wednesday 16 April 2pm & 7pm as usual

Maundy Thursday 17 April– hosted by St Margarets 7pm Eucharist of last Supper, feet washing and vigil (until 10pm)

GOOD Friday 18 April –

1030 Johnstone Walk of Witness tbc

1pm Soup lunch for Lent Appeal St Johns

2pm St Johns Good Friday Liturgy

7pm Renfrew Ecumenical Good Friday service at Trinity Church

HOLY SATURDAY 19 April – churches quiet until midday then flowers and decoration put up

EASTER SUNDAY 20 April

945am Easter Eucharist at St Johns followed by Easter refreshments

1130am East Eucharist at St Margarets followed by Easter refreshments

7pm Lent Course on zoom Session 5

Easter Monday 21 April 7pm Lent Course on zoom Session 5

Easter Wednesday 23 April 2pm & 7pm as usual

Easter 2 Sunday 27 April

945am Easter Eucharist at St Johns followed by Eastertide refreshments

1130am East Eucharist at St Margarets followed by Eastertide refreshments

7pm Lent Course on zoom Session 6

Monday 28 April 7pm Lent Course on zoom Session 6



**Some YouTube
choices
for Holy Week and Easter**



Thank you for the requests for some YouTube videos to explore this month. I hope you enjoy watching this month's selection. Some are very short – a few mins – and others are long – over 2 hours!

1. **Holy Week for kids** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoXX-c9Ztvq>
2. **Passion Song - The Story Of Holy Week**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MljFNaWoYEs>
3. **The Crucifixion of Jesus** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_unHmAf7INK
4. **Hymns for Lent and Holy Week / Relaxing Piano Instrumental**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suBd_c9oA9w
5. **An Easter Hallelujah** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-j3NZEedHQaI>
6. **The Easter Story for kids** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2TiXMhATPg>
7. **Andrea Bocelli: Music For Hope - Live From Duomo di Milano**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huTUOek4LgU>
8. **Royal Choral Society: 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's Messiah**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUZEtvbJT5c>
9. **Amazing Easter Cupcake Decorating Ideas**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noBbH8L0Jd0>
10. **Handel's Messiah (Easter Concert) (2hours)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIR9AAYMa3A>

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2025

Refuweegee

(ref-u-wee-gee)

Lent Soup lunches to support the
Bishop's Lent Appeal

St Margaret's
after the 1130am Sunday service on
Sundays 16, 23 & 30 March

& St Johns

at 1pm on Wednesdays 12, 19 & 26 March (before the 2pm Eucharist)



We shall have a weekly post-service collection bowl out in each church too. Online giving details will be on the pewsheets as they become available.

Thank you for your generosity for this year's Bishops Lent Appeal. The collection baskets/bowls will continue to be out in church to Easter Day or see the Sunday pewsheets for details of online giving

ABOUT REFUWEEGEE sent from Bishop Andrew

Making good things happen every day

Refuweegee is a blend of the nouns refugee and 'weegie' (a nickname for Glaswegians).

Since 2015, we have been helping forcibly displaced people build new lives in Glasgow, and across Scotland. Until 2022, Glasgow was Scotland's only city with dispersal status, hence the city-wide focus. Glasgow remains home to the largest intensity of asylum seekers in the UK; over 5,000.

Glasgow helps way more asylum seekers than Manchester who help 2,722 asylum seekers; Liverpool 2,738 and Belfast 2,299.

Refuweegee helps all forcibly displaced people, and anyone from the existing Scottish community. This intentional act safeguards against perceptions of help being restricted to one group of people.

Refuweegee receives walk-ins and referrals from 46 charitable and statutory partners. These partners are seeking emergency support for people including clothing; toiletries; household items and furniture; phones and devices as well as food.

We help approximately 300 people every week, treating everyone with kindness and dignity.

The need we are addressing

Refugees are able to work and access universal credit: asylum seekers can do neither. An asylum seeker detained in a hotel (and we say detained because the image of 'hotel' grossly inflates the nasty

guest houses and run-down cheap hotels in which people have to live) receive a weekly allowance of just £8.86 per person.

One pack of nappies for the week, one daily bus ticket in Glasgow: both would take more than 60% of someone's weekly budget.

Full, healthy lives are impossible on these meagre figures. Instead, people are financially excluded from society, forcing them to make difficult decisions between food, heat and healthcare on a daily basis.

The recently arrived community is made-up of extremely vulnerable people with complex issues. They are coping with trauma, battling isolation and homesickness.

Our values

We treat everyone with kindness and dignity. We are tenacious: we help people for as long as they need it – waiting for an asylum claim to be heard and refugee status to be granted can take years. Sometimes, recently arrived people present to us within days of arriving. Others can take weeks before presenting at our HQ to ask for help.

We're here for all displaced people as long as they need us and we don't give up.

What we do and what we want to do more of

Our strap line, to encourage belonging and empathy is "We're all fae somewhere".

We exist to address all kinds of poverty faced by displaced people; food, dignity, transport, digital and opportunity.

- Running our free shop distributing everything that people need to exist including clothes, baby items, toys and toiletries.
- Collecting and delivering furniture and all household items essential to make a home.
- Reimbursing bus and train fares for visitors, giving people autonomy of movement.
- Distributing food from our food pantry including weekly fresh fruit, veg and eggs (which can be cooked in a kettle).
- Delivering food parcels to people unable to travel into the city centre.
- Creating opportunities for people to volunteer at our spaces, giving people back a sense of purpose and a shape to their weeks.
- Running sewing, painting and crafting classes.
- Taking people out to social and cultural events: football matches, music gigs, theatre and cinema outings to help address isolation and improve mental health.

Since 2016 we have given out more than 32,000 welcome packs: rucksacks filled with donated essential items and small luxuries, finished with an individual 'letter from a local' where one stranger welcomes another.

Lastly, our Education Manager works within primary and secondary schools across the west of Scotland, delivering awareness raising workshops about what it means to be forcibly displaced and facilitating their help.

Personal Stories

In September 2024, we received a referral from British Red Cross. A heavily pregnant woman, **Afi**, living in accommodation facilitated by Mears (who have the UK Government contract to provide accommodation and support for asylum seekers) was feeling so cold it was affecting her sleep.

Afi was told by Mears she would have to make an official request to which they would respond to within 21 days. She had also been advised that the request might be rejected as she had been provided with 'standard bedding'.

Our Donations Co-ordinator compiled items for Afi including a duvet, bed linen, hot water bottle, a cosy blanket and a pamper gift set of toiletries. This parcel was delivered to Afi within two hours.

We then made an emergency appointment for Afi to come to our free shop where we collated items for the imminent arrival of her baby, removing anxiety about how she would gather essentials.

Afi and her baby now visit our safe-space two days a week hang out. Like many of our volunteers who first come to us needing help, Afi is an active volunteer and has made connections with others; has improved her well-being; has purpose in her life and feels valued.

Samuel had moved accommodation into a one-bed flat with no possessions at all; no bed, chair, cooker or fridge. Our team delivered these essential items, plus duvet, bed-linen, crockery and cutlery to help make this barren flat a home.

When sharing a cup of tea with Samuel, the delivery team recognised how desperately quiet the flat was so made a secondary trip that day to deliver a tv and play station, giving Samuel essential secondary noise.

Ade began volunteering at Refuweegee as part of our collection & delivery team. He shared his love of football with us while unpacking the van. We identified an opportunity for Ade to undertake a traineeship as a supported coach with Motherwell FC where he continues to volunteer.

Refuweegee in 2025

Refuweegee responds to each person as they present, meeting them at their point of need for as long as they need it. Our commitment to maintaining this open-ended flexible support makes Refuweegee unique in the sector but it's heavy and hard on staff resources.

Simultaneously, we are in the throes of a housing crisis: Glasgow City Council declared a housing emergency on 30 November 2023, followed by the Scottish Government declaring a national housing emergency on 15 May 2024.

Our team are handling increasingly high numbers of street homeless people, including multiple families and single teenagers; too old to be considered an unaccompanied minor, but still highly vulnerable. Street homeless people need – and deserve – intense help.

As social work services are under ever-increasing pressure, Refuweegee is picking up the well-being of displaced people who are alone and in urgent need.

In our tenth anniversary year, Refuweegee moved into our new office space: five floors of office space in George Square given to us for a peppercorn rent of £1 per annum.

We will be able to do so much more in this new space as well as bring together all elements of the charity under one roof. We anticipated much more cross service delivery: people coming in for advice will be able to use the shop; those using the shop will be able to take part in workshops and classes etc. Our community congregate in George Square so we couldn't be closer to those who need us.

We receive no funding from the Scottish Government or Glasgow City Council: we're only able to do this because of incredible people like the communities of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway: **thank you.**

Thank you for your continued giving to our Churches

For Online & Telephone banking use these details for your giving:-

to **St Johns the Evangelist Episcopal Church:**

Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 80-16-53 Acct No. 00356544

to **St Margarets Episcopal Church:**

Royal Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 83-26-22 Acct No: 00793833

Or send your giving for St John's or St Margaret's to the Rector at his home 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 ORD and Reuben will ensure your cheques/cash are banked. If you would like to give directly please use these details above or you can give via PayPal at www.paypal.me/reubenjamespreston and put *St John's/Margaret's* in the message box.

Contacts:

Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Tel: 07971 895897

The Rector – the Very Rev Reuben James Preston, 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 ORD

This Newsletter is available on our website to follow the live links throughout – please pass it on, or send it to friends for them to read and pray for us as well!

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

April as we celebrate Easter at St Margarets there is the opportunity to sponsor flowers in memory of loved ones. Please let Judith know of your sponsorships at £1 a stem.

**Happy Easter when
we get there!
Alleluia,
He is Risen!**



The weekly **Pewsheet**,
The Weekly **Intercessions sheet**
& The weekly **Gospel Reflection**
all from **www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk**



Living our Faith in action 2021-2030

– from our General Synod

10 points of Guidance – on the Climate Crisis

1. Seeking to reduce energy use in all our buildings and moving from oil/gas to electricity where possible
2. Implementing renewable energy solutions such as heat pumps and solar power on our property
3. Using less polluting forms of transport, moving to electric or hybrid cars, car sharing, wherever possible walking or cycling
4. Developing wildlife conservation schemes in our land
5. Using Fair Trade, environment- and animal-friendly products wherever possible
6. Reducing waste by composting and recycling as much of it as possible
7. Reducing paper usage (and then only using recycled paper)
8. Using online meetings often, but balanced with our need for human contact and Christian fellowship
9. Disseminating information on good practice, and seeking expert advice, practical help, and funding possibilities
10. Promoting sustainability through our preaching, liturgy and teaching, and setting a good example



In our contemporary world we know that people are celebrating their differences – we celebrate that too! We are churches for the diversity of all people – you are welcomed in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Rector: Very Rev'd Reuben Preston 07971 895897
rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk



The **Scottish Episcopal Church** at prayer
in church together and at home

Printed on recycled paper

